

Isn't Ireland's Freedom An International Issue?

20,000,000 Americans of Irish Blood Say It Is
600,000 Men in Uncle Sam's Khaki and 40% of His Marines Believe It Is

The Irish Question Not Religious

Back of every other argument of anti-Irish propaganda in this country is the vaguely mysterious one of dire consequences to the world if "Ireland is made free and handed over to the Pope."

What of the French nation and its overwhelming majority of Catholics?

What of the newly restored Catholic nation of Czechoslovakia?

What of the Catholic Nations of Italy and Poland?

If a country with a Catholic majority is such an evil to the world—why did America take the Catholic nations of Belgium, Italy, and France as allies to crush the predominating Protestant Empire of Germany?

Thomas Sinclair, of Lisburne, Antrim, a noted Ulster Protestant leader and until recently a strong Unionist, wrote in the Derry Journal, August 6, 1900; combating religious propaganda in Ireland devised to hurt Irish Nationalism:

"If Roman Catholicism is the bane that some people pronounce it, then the occupation of Belgium by Germany becomes a triumph of the righteous cause of Freedom and Progress instead of the crime it has been so loudly proclaimed."

"Personally I am convinced that the unifying influence of democracy is greater than the divergencies of creed, and Irishmen, whatever else they lack, have democracy in the blood."

These "Religious Questions" have been found convenient in every period of the era that is passed.

They were manufactured to destroy Nations and to build up Empires.

They have always been devised to stampede the minds of the less cultured and informed people.

IRISH PROTESTANT MARTYRS

Padraic MacCartain, F. D. E., F. R. C. S., Envoy of the Irish Government to America, gave evidence before the Committee on Foreign Affairs on H. J. Res. 357:

"I would make this further statement, which no Irish Catholic will question, and which I will ask the Catholic priests here to verify, that there is not in the calendar of Saints any names dearer to the hearts of the Irish Catholic people than the names of the Irish Protestant saints and martyrs, Wolfe Tone, Robert Emmet, Fitzgerald and the rest. We know no Catholic, and no Protestant in Ireland, just as we do not know them in the United States. There is no bigotry in Ireland, such as is stated by British propagandists. 'I am an Ulsterman and I know Ulster.'"

IRELAND'S POPULATION

Three-fourths Catholic.

One-fourth Protestant—of which over one-fifth are Nationalists opposed to English rule.

In other words over four-fifths of Ireland's population are already opposed to English rule in Ireland.

Ulster is as a whole—56 per cent Protestant.

Ulster is 44 per cent Catholic.

In five Ulster Counties the Catholics predominate, being 81 per cent, 78 per cent, 74 per cent, 56 per cent, 55 per cent.

In four Ulster Counties Protestants predominate, being 80 per cent, 69 per cent, 55 per cent, 55 per cent.

Loom on Which "The Ulster Question" Was Woven In England.

(Letter of Westmoreland, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to Pitt, January 18, 1792).

"The frame of Irish government is a Protestant garrison, in possession of the land, magistracy and power of the country; holding that property under the tenure of British power and supremacy, and ready at every instant to crush the rising of the conquered."—(Lecky, Ireland, Ch. VI).

What would America say if such a document as Westmoreland's were found in Von Bismarck's papers in Belgium in 1914, and Germany were still trying to maintain such a plan of ascendancy in Belgium?

This is the loom on which the Ulster question was woven—was established in 1798, when the Ulster Protestant patriot leaders were executed—was patched up from London in 1914 by the Londonderrys, Carson, Smith, Gough, et al.

The Loom is still at work weaving.

IS ULSTER AN IRISH PROBLEM?

What Will the New Republican Government of Ireland Do About the Ulster Problem?

They might well do as Washington did with his Ulster problem in 1776—when 50,000 American born "Loyal Unionists" fought with England against American independence. Washington ignored it.

In acknowledging Bohemian independence recently America and the Entente ignored that country's Ulster Question—a Teutonic alien ascendancy class of two millions—one-third of the whole population of Bohemia.

But the Irish Republicans mean to win over such of their Ulster countrymen as still remain opposed to the idea of an independent Ireland.

Hobson, Blythe, Morrow, Figgis and others of the Protestant leaders of Sinn Fein have every confidence that their neighbors will soon stand where their fathers did in 1783—for a free Ireland.



Ireland's "Saint of Saints"—Emmet

Five times in the last 120 years the people of Ireland, Catholic and Protestant, have risen in armed rebellion to free Ireland. Robert Emmet, son of an Irish Protestant clergyman, and leader of the Rebellion of 1803, delivered an immortal speech before his execution. His closing words were:

"If the spirits of the illustrious dead participate in the concerns of those who were dear to them in this transitory scene, dear shade of my venerable Father, look down on your suffering son, and see has he for one moment deviated from those moral and patriotic principles which you so early instilled into his youthful mind, and for which he has now to offer up his life."

"I have but a few words more to say. . . . I have parted with everything that was dear to me in life, and for my Country's cause with the idol of my soul, the object of my affections. My race is run—the grave opens to receive me, and I sink to its bosom. I have but one request to ask at my departure from this world; it is the Charity of its Silence."

"Let no man write my epitaph; for as no man who knows my motives, dare now vindicate them, let not prejudice or ignorance asperse them. Let them rest in obscurity and peace, my memory be left in oblivion and my tomb remain uninscribed, until other times and other men can do justice to my character. When my country takes her place among the nations of the earth, then, and not till then, let my epitaph be written."

What Is Sinn Fein?

SINN FEIN is the Spirit of 1776.

SINN FEIN literally means We Ourselves.

SINN FEIN means the spirit of a Free People.

IT IS THE SPIRIT THAT MAKES FREE.

SINN FEIN is that for which Tone and Emmet died and for which Parnell wore out his life. Sinn Fein is the crystallization of the spirit that has ruled the liberating forces of the world in the past five years.

It means—We Ourselves Rely on Ourselves. We Ourselves Shall Govern Ourselves. We Ourselves Shall Be Free Men—not bondsmen.

This Sinn Fein spirit has within 100 years freed South America, Cuba, and European States—Greece, Italy, Serbia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Roumania, Norway, Finland, Poland, Bohemia, and the Ukraine!

SINN FEIN is in no sense the voice of any one clique or creed of the Irish people. Among its cherished leaders are Protestants like the Countess Markievicz (a member of the Irish family of Gore-Booth), Ernest Blythe, Jack Morrow, Darrell Figgis, Bulmer Hobson, Mrs. John R. Green, the noted historian; the Hon. Miss Broderick, sister of Lord Middleton; Nelly O'Brien (bean uasal) of the ancient house of O'Brien; relatives of the late British Ambassador to Washington, and others.

SINN FEIN is the most united of Nationalist movements in the world today, embracing in full comradeship the agricultural, labor, manufacturing, commercial, professional, artistic, literary, educational and religious elements of the Irish population. The movement is thus purely national and entirely free from class antagonisms.

SINN FEIN has an organization of 2,500 branches (one to every 12 square miles), knitting together all Ireland; is financially supported by a national fund raised in offerings from sixpence (12 cents) upwards; enrolling tens of thousands of voluntary workers, it has built up a political vehicle as unique as it is pure, entirely representative of the people of whom it is the direct expression.

SINN FEIN led the polls in the recent elections, capturing over a two-thirds vote of the electorate. This was accomplished while all the party leaders but two were held in English jails without trial, over 200 election workers and three successive campaign directors seized and treated similarly.

SINN FEIN comprises in its following fully 80 per cent of the whole population of Ireland. It is the corporate assertion of the right of a nation to control its own destinies. Sinn Fein fundamentally is not a physical force movement, but an exceedingly sound and shrewd political movement. It has fused the traditional culture of the nation with all the progressive forces of the twentieth century.

The President of Sinn Fein, Eamon de Valera, was in the autumn of 1917 offered by English authorities a place on one of the two proposed Provisional Governing Boards in Ireland. He declined this offer, denying the right of any foreign power to set up any form of government in Ireland. That is the spirit of Sinn Fein: **Hands off your neighbor's land, but master in your own.**

SINN FEIN'S defiant answer to the arrest of all her leaders last May was: "You may kill the leaders, but you can't kill Sinn Fein!"

SINN FEIN is, in fact, indestructible—for Sinn Fein is the incarnate soul of the Irish Nation.

"This is the essence of Sinn Fein—that Ireland looks to itself for strength and to any and every nation outside England for allied support in her fight for National Freedom"—said an Irish leader in 1917, as Washington might have said of America's Sinn Fein in 1776.

"Sinn Fein is the most compact and boldest expression in terms of politics of all the forces that are helping on the regeneration of Ireland. It is the political spearhead of Ireland."—Sydney Brooks, an English publicist, in 1907.

The Irish Question Is International

Ireland is not an internal or domestic question of England.

Just as conquered and occupied Belgium was not an internal or domestic question of Germany.

Even as Poland—or Bohemia—is not a domestic question of Austria.

Ireland was a Nation, and a highly civilized one before the Christian era. Ireland for over 1,000 years after Christ had the most democratic and efficient government in Europe.

Ireland is a Nation today—and in 750 years of struggle for freedom against a rapacious neighbor the Irish People have never surrendered their claims to freedom, to nationhood, to sovereign rights.

Militant Ireland reasserted her right to FREEDOM in the Rebellion of 1916—as in 1867, 1848, 1803, 1798, and repeatedly before.

In 1810—a decade after the corrupt Parliamentary Union imposed on Ireland, Daniel O'Connell said at a protest meeting of Catholics and Protestants in Dublin:

"The Union was therefore a manifest injustice, and it continues to be unjust at this day. IT WAS A CRIME, and must still be criminal, unless it shall be ludicrously pretended that crime, like wine, improves by old age, and that time mollifies injustice into innocence."

Was the seizure and outrage of Belgium more innocent or just in 1918 than it was in 1914?

Is England's grip on Ireland more innocent or just in 1919 than in 1219?

Ireland's right to Nationhood and Freedom was peacefully and definitely asserted by the ballot in December, 1918.

American support can consolidate Ireland's claims to Freedom today as Irish support secured America's in 1776—and the English Government will without violence yield what the British Labor Party already acknowledges—Ireland's right to Self-Determination.

Will America withhold her moral support? NEVER.

"Ireland is resolutely and irrevocably determined at the dawn of the promised era of self-determination and liberty that she will suffer foreign dominion no longer—and calls upon every free nation to uphold her national claim to complete independence—and demands to be confronted publicly with England at the Congress of Nations."—From the Greeting to the Nations of the World, issued by the Irish Congress at its first session, January, 1919.

SHALL AMERICA INTERVENE.

(Tribute of the "Child of Mount Vernon.")

GEORGE WASHINGTON CUSTIS, SPEAKING IN THE CITY HALL, WASHINGTON, D. C., on July 20, 1826, said to American citizens, formulating an address to the people of Ireland then struggling for religious liberty and political independence:

"* * * There are those who doubt the propriety of interference in the concerns of other people, potentates or powers. * * * There was a time when Americans were not sticklers in doctrinal matters; it was when to our wasted war-worn ranks we were glad to receive the co-religionists of any creed, AND FOUND TO OUR COMFORT AND TO OUR INDEPENDENCE, TOO, that a Catholic arm could drive a bayonet on the foe, and a Catholic heart beat high for the liberties of our country."

(AND THE AMERICAN OF IRISH BLOOD, CATHOLIC AS WELL AS PROTESTANT, PROVED THIS AGAIN IN 1918!)

"And with such revelations as these, can you, will you, dare you, Americans, talk of interference, and withhold your voice from a general acclaim in a prayer for Ireland's deliverance? If there is an American who does not feel for the wrongs of that country which so nobly contributed to the establishment of our rights, I pronounce him recreant to the feelings of virtue, honor, and gratitude."

"And my country's self, if she decline to give only her poor opinions of the miseries of those who gave their toil and blood that she might be great, free and happy, when misfortunes next shall assail her, may she not find the friend she once found in Ireland. * * *"

"But let not Ireland despair. * * * My country's friend in my country's utmost need. May she soon be released from the Lion's grasp! * * *"

GEORGE WASHINGTON CUSTIS.

WHO SPOKE OF IRISH FACTIONS?

In the General Elections of December 14, 1918, three parties existed in Ireland: Sinn Fein National Party, Dillon National Party, Pro-English Unionist Party.

The results were: 73 per cent Sinn Fein, 6 per cent Devlin National, 21 per cent Unionist.

What other country can show such unanimity?

Returns of the General election in Great Britain show that the following groups there returned members to Parliament: Coalition Unionists, Coalition Liberals, Coalition Laborites, Unionists, Asquithian Liberals, Laborites, National Party, Independents, Socialists—nine English parties.

Come to Liberty Hut St. Patrick's Night, March 17

Speakers: Hon. Hannis Taylor, Former Minister to Spain.
Katherine Hughes, of Irish Bureau, Washington.
Hon. Joseph W. Bailey, ex-Senator of the United States.
P. T. MORAN, Chairman.

Special Home-Coming exercises for Soldiers and Sailors. Seats reserved for them on stage. There were over 4,500 boys of Irish Blood from the District who fought in France for small nations.

Come and Hear the Truth About Ireland Admission Free